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STATINTL

China Prisoner Cool to Youths

CPYRGHT

Reuters

SHANGHAI, China, Sept. American and hard as nails."—Three Americans imprisoned by the Chinese Communists were visited today by a group of young American tourists.

The prisoners are Hugh Francis Redmond, 37, of New York; and two Roman Catholic priests, the Rev. Joseph McCormick, 64, of New York, and the Rev. John Wagner, 50, of Pittsburgh.

The prisoners were given only a few minutes notice that they were going to have a surprise visit from fellow-Americans.

Redmond was hostile and cold throughout most of the interview in Shanghai municipal prison.

The visit with Redmond and Fr. McCormick was reported by Steve and Mrs. Tyler of New York, who are traveling with the party of 40 American youths who defied a United States State Department ban on travel to Communist China.

Redmond said he was suspicious of visitors because he could not understand how they had been allowed to come to China.

"I am an anarchist," said Redmond, serving a life sentence on a charge of spying.

Mrs. Tyler said those who saw Redmond—the Americans split up in groups to see the prisoners—described him as "one hundred per cent

He did not show much interest in his visitors, and declined offers to visit his relatives in the United States.

When someone asked him, "did you ever consider yourself to be politically conscious," he replied:

"What is that—a Marxist question? I've been reading a lot of Marxist books and that seems familiar."

Questioned about his opinion of United States Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, Redmond said:

"From the stuff they give me to read—New China News Service releases—you'd think Dulles was a goon. But I doubt whether they print all he says."

The former businessman said he did not think he had been treated fairly, especially at first, and added, "They know how I feel."

At first Redmond refused to see the visitors because, he said, "I was thinking that you had broken the American law by coming to China and I did not want to break the law myself by seeing you."

Both Redmond and Fr. McCormick live in a large 10-room house in a Shanghai suburb. They have free access to one another and can walk in the yard at will.

They receive magazines occasionally from home and some books. They can write and receive as many letters as they like.

Tyler said Fr. McCormick looked bewildered and as though he were suffering from shock at seeing his visitors. The priest was very thin.



Redmond